60-2507

Mr. Gates
Mr. Sayre

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 10, 1960

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

Recently I have received various items of information giving concern as to the scope, basis and feasibility of our reconnaissance satellite projects. I refer specifically to the SAMOS and related projects.

I believe these projects should be brought before the National Security Council for careful consideration and review of their essential features, with particular emphasis on two principal phases:

a. The intelligence or "surveillance" requirements this program is being designed to fill, including the soundness of the concepts on which these requirements are based, and the resulting validity, as well as the procedures for, and supervisory control over, their preparation. DoD

b. (1) The technical feasibility of the planned systems in relation to requirements, development schedules and technical direction of the program, together with (2) the effectiveness of control over the scope and characteristics of the operational systems, with particular attention to means for assuring early and efficient utilization of such systems. DoD

The phases of the study relating to a and b. (2) above should be prepared for NSC consideration by the Department of Defense, and accordingly are assigned to the Secretary of Defense. The phase of the study relating to b. (1) above I should like to have conducted

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by a panel organized by my Special Assistant for Science and Technology, to whom the responsibility for conduct of this segment of the study is accordingly assigned.

These studies should be developed in full coordination throughout and the results should be submitted to the National Security Council as a joint presentation.

The Honorable Thomas Gates

The Secretary of Defense

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